

(1) **EMERGENCY CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM.**—Each entity that receives a grant under this section shall use such grant to establish an Emergency Crisis Response Team program by not later than the date that is six months after the entity receives the grant. Under such program the following shall apply:

(A) Such program shall include immediate, short-term emergency services, including shelter, care services, food, clothing, transportation to medical or legal appointment as appropriate, and any other life services deemed necessary by the entity for victims of elder abuse.

(B) Such program shall provide services to victims of elder abuse, including those who have been referred to the program through the adult protective services agency of the local law enforcement or any other relevant law enforcement or referral agency.

(C) A victim of elder abuse may not receive short-term housing under the program for more than 30 consecutive days.

(D) The entity that established the program shall enter into arrangements with the relevant local law enforcement agencies so that the program receives quarterly reports from such agencies on elder abuse.

(2) **ADDITIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED.**—Not later than one year after the date an entity receives a grant under this section, such entity shall have established the following programs (and community collaborations to support such programs):

(A) **COUNSELING.**—A program that provides counseling and assistance for victims of elder abuse accessing health care, educational, pension, or other benefits for which seniors may be eligible under Federal or applicable State law.

(B) **MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING.**—A program that provides mental health screenings for victims of elder abuse to identify and seek assistance for potential mental health disorders such as depression or substance abuse.

(C) **EMERGENCY LEGAL ADVOCACY.**—A program that provides legal advocacy for victims of elder abuse and, as appropriate, their families.

(D) **JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE.**—A program that provides job placement assistance and information on employment, training, or volunteer opportunities for victims of elder abuse.

(E) **BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING.**—A program that provides bereavement counseling for families of victims of elder abuse.

(F) **OTHER SERVICES.**—A program that provides such other care, services, and assistance as the entity considers appropriate for purposes of the program.

(f) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Director shall enter into contracts with private entities with experience in elder abuse coordination or victim services to provide such technical assistance to grantees under this section as the entity determines appropriate.

(g) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 12 months after the commencement of the Program, and annually thereafter, the entity shall submit a report to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate. Each report shall include the following:

(1) A description and assessment of the implementation of the Program.

(2) An assessment of the effectiveness of the Program in providing care and services to seniors, including a comparative assessment of effectiveness for each of the locations designated under subsection (c)(3) for the Program.

(3) An assessment of the effectiveness of the coordination for programs described in

subsection (e) in contributing toward the effectiveness of the Program.

(4) Such recommendations as the entity considers appropriate for modifications of the Program in order to better provide care and services to seniors.

(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section:

(1) **ELDER ABUSE.**—The term “elder abuse” means any type of violence or abuse, whether mental or physical, inflicted upon an elderly individual, and any type of criminal financial exploitation of an elderly individual.

(2) **ELDERLY INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “elderly individual” means an individual who is age 60 or older.

(i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Justice to carry out this section \$3,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2011.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the second elder justice bill we are considering today is the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2009. The House passed this bill on suspension last September by a vote of 387–28, but the Senate did not have time to consider it before adjournment.

It is estimated that each year, as many as 5 million elders are abused, neglected, or exploited. And the incidence of elder abuse is likely to only get worse in coming years, as 76 million baby boomers reach retirement age.

The legal protections against elder abuse vary significantly from State to State. The problem of elder abuse is especially problematic as many abuse cases remain secret and are never reported. The National Center on Elder Abuse has estimated that only one in six cases is reported.

H.R. 448, the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2009, sponsored by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. SESTAK, will help provide training, technical assistance, and other support, to State and local law enforcement officials to help them catch and prosecute those who would prey on our elders.

The bill will authorize funding for specialized elder justice police officers and units, as well as for special elder justice positions and units within State and local prosecutors' offices and courts.

It will also provide other services to elders who are victimized. In addition to training for health care, social, and

protective service providers, it establishes the Elder Serve Victim Grant Program with regional emergency crisis response teams. These teams will provide short-term emergency services to elder victims, including shelter, care services, food, clothing, transportation to medical or legal appointments, and other life services as warranted.

Finally, the bill requires the Attorney General and the GAO to examine State and Federal laws, practices, and initiatives, and to recommend ways to more effectively address this problem. This bill comes to the floor amended to more clearly define the role of the Comptroller General in conducting its study and reporting to Congress.

In addition to **JOE SESTAK**, I want to commend the gentleman from New York, **PETER KING**, for his leadership in making this a bipartisan initiative. I would also like to acknowledge our former colleague from Illinois, **Rahm Emanuel**, for his work on this issue.

I would like to insert in the **RECORD** at this point a letter from the American Bar Association supporting this legislation as a “significant step in addressing the inexcusable and growing national problem of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.”

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC, February 9, 2009.

Re the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2009.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The American Bar Association urges you to vote “yes” on H.R. 448, the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2009, legislation that we understand will be brought to the floor of the House under Suspension of the Rules tomorrow. The ABA supports enactment of the legislation as a significant step in addressing the inexcusable and growing national problem of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation—a tragedy that is estimated to cause serious harm to as many as two million people each year. That estimate does not reflect abuse of residents of long-term care facilities and thus is likely quite low. Additionally, the problem is estimated to grow as the older population burgeons.

Elder justice is central to any viable notion of the rule of law and social justice. The serious problems faced daily by victims of elder abuse cannot be remedied unless the justice system is given the resources to address those problems effectively. Elder abuse is a criminal violation, yet historically the justice system has handed the issue off to social services personnel who cannot adequately address the problem on their own. Currently there are very limited resources and expertise available to prosecutors to address elder abuse. H.R. 448 would establish vitally necessary specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse and to provide relevant training to prosecutors and others who work in law enforcement.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS M. SUSMAN,

Director, Governmental Affairs Office.

I urge my colleagues to support this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 448, the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2009. As founder and co-Chair of the Congressional Victims Rights Caucus, I